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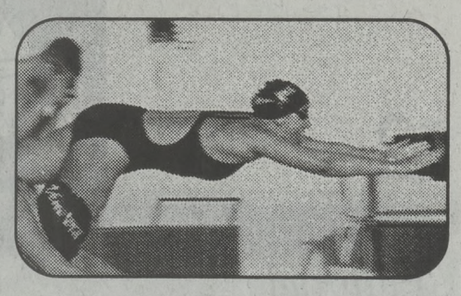


The Los Angeles Valley Star

www.lavc.cc.ca.us

VOLUME 52 , ISSUE 6 | **SERVING VALLEY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS** | **THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1999**

CAMPUS SCENE

HOLIDAYS

Classes will not be in session to observe the following holidays:
•Spring Break from March 22 through 28
•Cesar Chavez Day on March 31

TESTING

•The test for the math competency requirement for the associate degree will be given on March 30.
•Those that need federal student aid and have no high school diploma or general equivalence diploma need to take an ability to benefit test in order to be able to apply for financial aid. The test will be given on April 7 at 2 p.m.
The tests will be given in Administration Room 126. Students need to bring a picture identification. No appointments are necessary.

DEAN'S RECEPTION

Students who received a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during Fall '98 will be honored at the dean's reception on April 7 at 2 p.m. in Monarch Hall.
The keynote speaker will be William "Blinky" Rodriguez, the executive director of communities in school.

SPRING CELEBRATION

The Associated Student Union will be sponsoring a spring celebration on March 30 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Monarch Square.
The activities will include:
•face painting
•bean bag toss
•egg decorating
•basket making
•musical chairs
•fish pond
•ring toss
•tic tac toe

SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Ageton-Pittenger Perpetual scholarship are due April 2. Some of the requirements for the scholarship are to have a grade point average of at least 3.75 and to have completed at least 120 total grade points. The forms are available in the Student Assistance Center in Cafeteria 101-B.

Cafeteria rating raises concerns

By KARI STROUTH
STAR REPORTER

Although students this semester are concerned about the maintenance of the cafeteria following a 'C' rating by the health inspector in December, school officials defend the cleanliness of its kitchen.

"I don't eat at the cafeteria," said student Felicia Carr, referring to the 'C' rating. "I eat somewhere safe."

"I don't eat at the cafeteria. I go somewhere safe."

-Felicia Carr
A Valley College student

Student Laura Juarez said she eats in the cafeteria because it's close and doesn't have time to go to off campus.

"I should be concerned," Juarez said. "So far I haven't gotten sick."

The cafeteria received 15 health code violations from the Dec. 16 inspection by the County Department of Health Services and the coffee house received eight.

The violations "had nothing to do with the food or the food being served on the line," said Vice President of Administration Mary Ann Breckell.

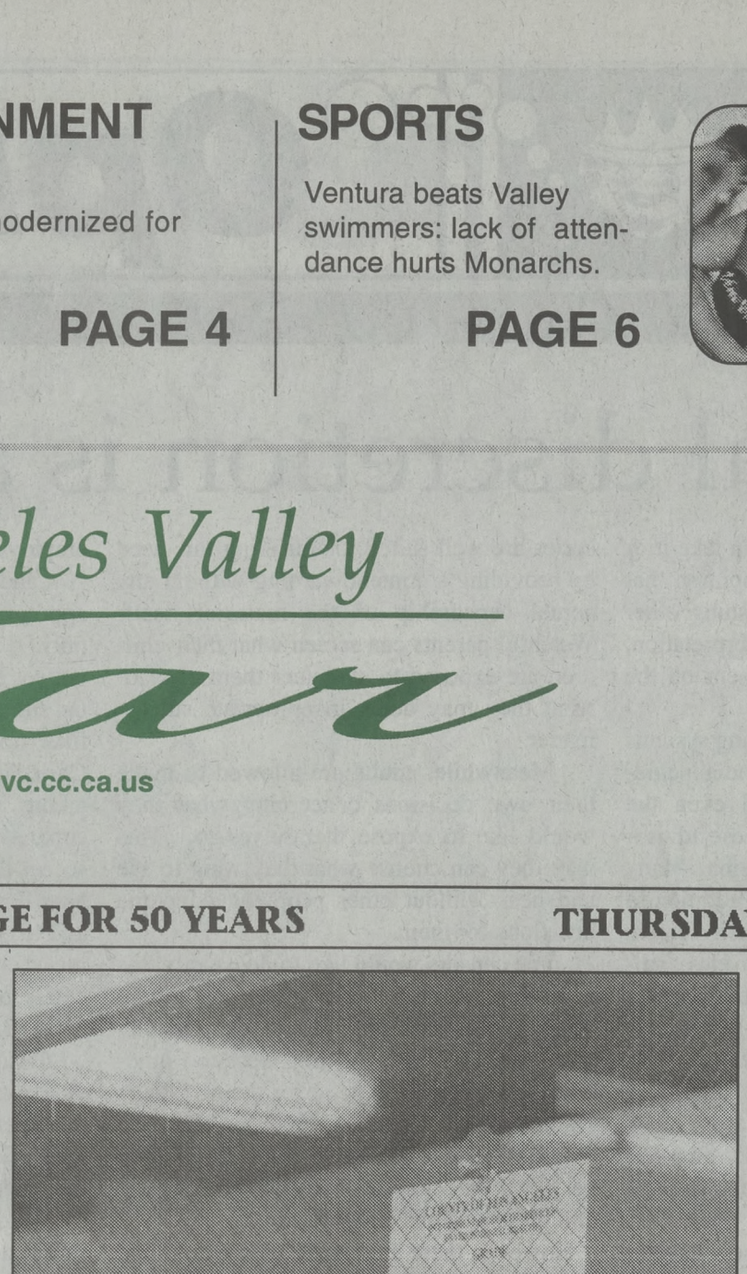
She also said that the all the violations were corrected by Jan. 4 before the students returned from winter vacation. "We want a safe environment for everyone," Breckell said.

According to the assistant manager of the cafeteria, Mary Clark, there were three parties going on at the time of the inspection and the cafeteria was understaffed.

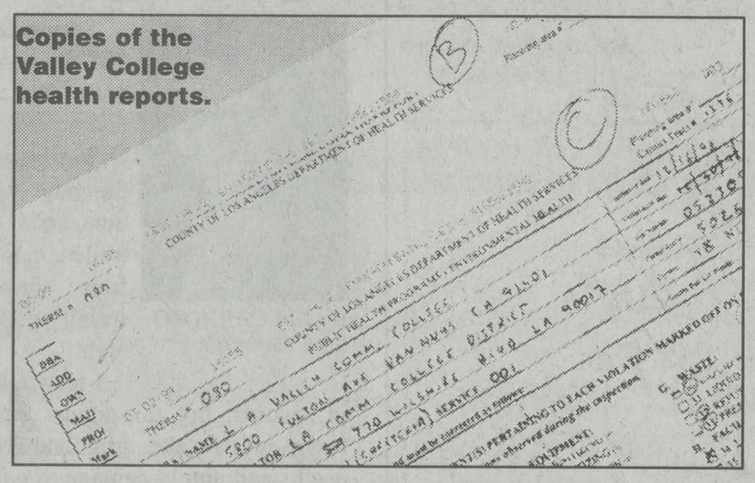
"I admit there was a lot of dishes left there. When we work during the day we have dirty dishes and I can't get to them right away because I didn't have anybody and I had to get these functions going," Clark Said. With regards to the utensils "we wash them, sanitize them and put them in air tight containers."

The shelves in the refrigeration unit and utensil drawers are made of galvanized steel and gives the appearance of being dirty, said Juliana Christensen, cashier at the coffee house. She even took a rag and wiped it in front of the inspector showing that it is clean, she said.

The violations for the cafeteria were for food storage, employee practices, washing/ sanitizing, utensil condition, equipment storage, food storage facilities,refrigeration units,thermometer, hazardous materials, lavatories,ventilation, floors, walls and the janitorial facility. The violations on the coffee house were for equipment condition, storage for cups, food storage facilities, refrigeration units, water leaks, liquid waste, floors and walls.



Kathy Lusting/ Valley Star
The Valley College cafeteria displays the 'C' rating it was given.



Copies of the Valley College health reports.

Health fair to be held at Valley

By DENNIS SANCHEZ
STAR REPORTER

The annual Health Fair Expo comes to Valley College once again.

The fair will be held in Monarch Hall and Monarch Square on April 14 beginning at 10 a.m.

There will be 50 booths with information available to the student body and public.

The purpose of the fair is to "provide screening and free services and information to the students and community," said Barbara Perlman, clinical manager at the Valley College Student Health Center.

All the educational resources, such as pamphlets and brochures will be available in the booths in Monarch Square. There will be information on heart care, cancer, home care and arthritis, to name a few.

The screenings such as blood pressure, vision, body fat, HIV and other free examinations will be held in Monarch Hall.

"Basically the health fair is a group of doctors and R.N.'s that are here to determine any health problems that are undetected," Greg Hagopian, an organizer of the event.

Blood chemistry procedures will be done in Monarch Hall. Participants must fast for eight hours, be 18 years or older and pay for the lab work.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the fair can contact Perlman at (818) 947-2917 or go to the Health Center.

Telethon auditions held on Friday

By JAVIER MORELOS
STAR REPORTER

Auditions for the Media Arts Academy Telethon were held in the Little Theater Friday.

The telethon is being held to raise money for Valley College's Media Arts Academy, according to Gail Nastasia, one of the faculty advisers in charge of the telethon production.

The Media Arts Academy will be a training center for students working to pursue a career in the entertainment industry.

The Academy offers courses in radio, television, cinema, journalism and other various subjects.

An anonymous donor has bequeathed the college with a donation of up to $500,000 for the Academy.

The donor will match the amount raised by viewers watching the telethon.

Photo courtesy of the Broadcasting Department
Antonio Fernandez Soriano Jr. auditions to be a part of the telethon for the Academy.

The audition was an open call for both students and professionals.

"Basically, anyone we can get to perform," Nastasia said.

Nastasia said that a sufficient amount of participants had been selected and that no further auditions will be held.

According to Nastasia, the telethon will feature various acts such as singers, magicians, comedians, rap artists and hip hop dancers.

The telethon will air on TCI Cable channels 1 and 97 and Time Warner on April 25 between noon and 8 p.m.

Crime watch

By JOHN MAROT
STAR REPORTER

Crime Watch runs on a bi-issue basis serving to report crimes that occur on campus.

Crimes for March 3 to 17:

•Mar. 3
There was a burglary from a car parked in Lot A between 12 and 1 p.m. The loss was estimated at $1140 and included a pair of Ralph Loren glasses, a discman, a pager currency and other items.

•Mar. 8
A bag was stolen from the quad area near the coffee shop at about 4 p.m.

•Mar.16
There were three burglaries from cars parked in Lot A between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Radios and CDs were stolen. A radio was also stolen from a car parked in lot D at about the same time.

Crime Prevention Tip #4
Always walk with a buddy or in a group when going to and from your car at night.

Editorial

Parental discretion is advised

Advice is great because you can take it or leave it. It's an expression of opinion that stands on its own without squashing other opinions. It leaves room for interpretation, contemplation and further judgment on the topic it addresses.

Today, public advisories and rating systems can be seen in a vast variety of media including movies, books, music and even the Internet. The most apparent of these advisory systems can be found on television. Many moaned when they first saw this addition to the upper left-hand corner of their screen, seeing it as an ineffective and useless nuisance. But had they considered the ingenious purpose behind them, they might have seen how effective they really are.

Advisories are minimally intrusive. A few seconds of content description before a TV show or a small, removable sticker on a CD is all that is needed. They are our greatest allies against censorship.

One of the best arguments censors have to offer is that censorship is needed to preserve the innocence of children. Parental advisories are well suited for fulfilling this need by providing a content warning without any actual censorship of the material itself. Watchful parents can screen what their children are exposed to and steer them clear of what they may deem inappropriate subject matter.

Meanwhile, adults are allowed to make their own decisions concerning what they would like to expose themselves to. This way they can choose what they want to see and hear without other people making the decisions for them.

Some censors would like to do exactly this and impose their opinions of what is decent on everyone, including other adults, treating the general public as if they were too ignorant to decide what's good for them. Others claim a moral obligation to censor offensive material. The underlying principle is that people should have the freedom to choose, and these systems allow for that.

However, there are people who would like to impose more lengthy and detailed advisories. The current basic TV rating system employs the abbreviations TV-Y, Y7, G, PG, -14, and MA, which describes programming appropriate for all ages to mature audiences only. Accompanying them are additional notices such as V for violence and S for sexual situations. But warning viewers of things like homosexual content (HC), as the Christian Coalition has proposed, would be taking it too far. What about heterosexual content? Or maybe they should have HH for scenes that graphically depict people holding hands? Simplicity is the key to its success and to complicate rating systems by cluttering them with every potentially offensive detail of the program would completely defeat their purpose.

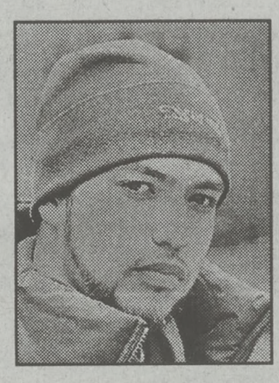
Advisory systems in their present form provide a very useful set of guidelines. The little icons, which are an integral part of the advisories, have quickly become symbolic of free speech as its advocates proudly display the words "Explicit Lyrics" and the like on T-shirts and hats. Whether they realize it or not, they owe a debt of gratitude to those who have devised these systems as do we all.

Photo Survey

Would you eat at a restaurant that had a 'C' rating?

"No, because there's something wrong if it's a 'C'."
Samantha Fitch

Yes. People complain to get something out of it."
Oscar Caceres



"No, because of health reasons."
Luis Ocana

"Yes if the food is good."
Ingrid Garcia

Julio Cortez/Valley Star

Be kind to your cafeteria

By JORGE GUERRERO
STAR REPORTER

Upon entering the Valley College cafeteria last week I couldn't help but notice the dusty tabletops all decorated with candy bar wrappers, crumpled newspapers, potato chip bags, half eaten meals and smeared catsup and mustard.

They all seemed to be living in perfect harmony with the sticky floor which was littered with more newspapers and magazine advertisements plus a very colorful array of plastic spoons and forks and empty soda cans.

My eyes cautiously inspected the room and discovered an unoccupied spot where I could meet with my friends.

As I sat amid the scattered tables and chairs I tried but failed to understand how the condition of the facility had gotten so corroded.

It wasn't the first time I had been there but it was the first time I had noticed how neglected it had become. The poor room seemed to be dwelling in its own filth and was literally crying out for a little tender loving care.

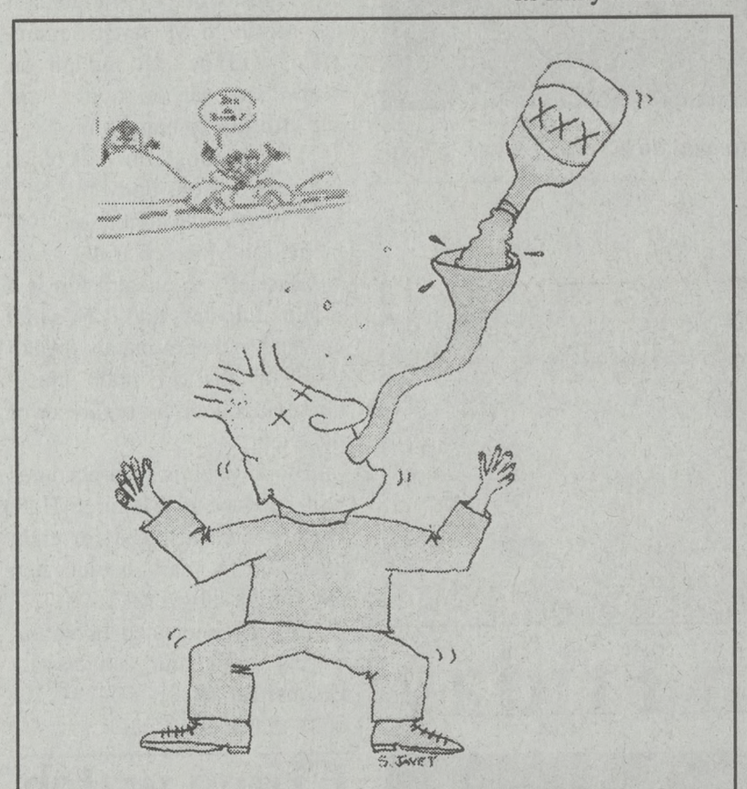
I thought, "How can this poor lunchroom with so much to offer go unnoticed by those responsible for keeping it presentable?" It at least deserves an occasional wiping of the tabletops, and sweeping or mopping of the floors.

It's shameful when a school cafeteria receives a "C" rating for whatever the reasons, but the condition here really reflected the lack of courtesy on the part of students, staff and faculty alike because they all use it and therefore they all contribute equally to its filthy condition.

Nobody bothers to take the responsibility upon themselves of cleaning up after they finish. They simply, after having enjoyed their lunch on the run, either consciously or unconsciously ignore the mess and rely on someone else to dispose of their banana peels and foam cups.

It shouldn't be all that difficult to clean up after ourselves and it would definitely provide a more relaxed and comfortable atmosphere for everyone. It's the least we can do in the interest of cleanliness and sanitation.

So the next time you happen to find yourself in our beautiful student lounge, make sure not to neglect it. The poor, innocent, abused and misunderstood eatery is all we've got and we all need to do our part in keeping it clean. We do as much when we finish our burgers and fries at our neighborhood McDonalds.



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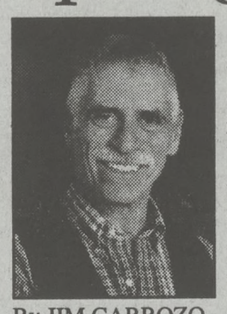
Spring Break-Where the wild things are



By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

Spring Break is here and not a moment too soon. We all need to rest up mentally. Unfortunately it's also the time when tens of thousands of uncontrolled adolescents go from spring fever to spring madness overnight.

I realize them's fightin' words, but this annual embarrassment leaves in its wake drug and driving related deaths and untold damage to public and private property, not to mention crimes against women. It also unjustly maligns the reputation of the majority of decent students who must bear the blame along with the jerks.

My first experience with this national aberration goes back to Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 1967 when I was attempting to get to Miami after a band gig on Fort Lauderdale Beach. A bakery truck in front of me was attacked by a mob of drunken srtudents. It was overturned, ransacked, and the driver beaten.

Alcohol, which rarely brings out the best in a person, turned this group of several hundred into a pack of rabid dogs. It was tame compared to today's scene, but it was a scary preview of things to come.

Somehow, in spite of such madness, spring break took on a glamour, and spread to other locales, becoming a tradition that has gotten more out of hand every year. This year we can be sure that there will be many cases of drug and driving related deaths, property destruction, rape and unwanted pregnancies, all in the name of a "good time." What a sad legacy!

"Adults don't understand the stress of college and this is our way of dealing with it," a reveler said last year after witnessing a friend's death by alcohol. Apparently the boy "carbureted" two pitchers of beer through a funnel and tube and then chug-a-lugged a fifth of whiskey. his stomach exploded.

Another rationale is, "My parents drink so why not me?" That one always blows my mind. These sick puppies maintain that they are smarter, yet when it comes to drinking they accept their parents worst behavior and make it their own.

For ten years I was a cruise director on ships that catered to upwards of 600 students during spring break. About 100 of them threw chairs, lounges and plants overboard, broke into liquor closets, strafed passageways with fire extinguisher foam, beat each other up, and puked on every carpet. On one such cruise I couldn't exit my cabin in the morning because it was blocked by an 18 year old boy who had drowned, face down in his own vomit.

I would often stand shame-faced in the presence of crew members from other less affluent countries. They were hard working men who spent 14 months at a time separated from their families. Most of them had kids of their own, who, when they recieved some prized gift from dad, like a boom box, or a tv, would proudly place it on the highest shelf in their home, cherishing it. These men would watch silently as our kids trashed their own unappreciated toys and lives.

Most students do not behave badly. They are loud and obnoxious, but that's what teenagers do for a living and that's OK. It's the fifteen or twenty percent that ruin the reputation of the rest. The problem is dosage, and I can't help but believe, upbringing.

As a student myself I appreciate the enormous stress of mid-terms and finals, and I agree that it's necessary to blow off steam during the break. I also realize that nothing I say will impact the use of drugs to relieve that stress, but I urge all of my fellow students to pay less atention to pressure from their friends and more to self-policing their own dosage. Eighty percent of you will. The others will not.

Today, a pure substance can be changed in a lab into a deadly designer drug by changing one molecule. Crack, crank, coke, heroin and meth-amphetamines, especially when mixed with the deadliest drug of all, alcohol, can send you straight to the morgue.

It's better to stay sober altogether, but if you must get high, watch your dosage. Don't take a dive, come back alive.

What do you think? E-mail me at SrFresh@aol.com.

What's Your Opinion?

The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday. Letters will also be picked up from our three mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or e-mail to VSTAR@laccd.cc.ca.us.

For Your Information

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. The College newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student newspaper staff. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

Dreams instead of danger . . .

Jeopardy program gives youth at risk a chance to shine

By: ALEXIS SCALICE
STAR REPORTER

Hugo Ruellas clenched his fists. The 19 year old focused intently on the speed bag. After a deep breath, he was ready to spend another afternoon working towards his dream.

"I want to be a professional boxer," Ruellas said. "There were three boxers in my family. Two were professionals. Ever hear of the Ruellas brothers?"

His fists turned to a blur as the pounding sound of the speed bag echoed across the gym.

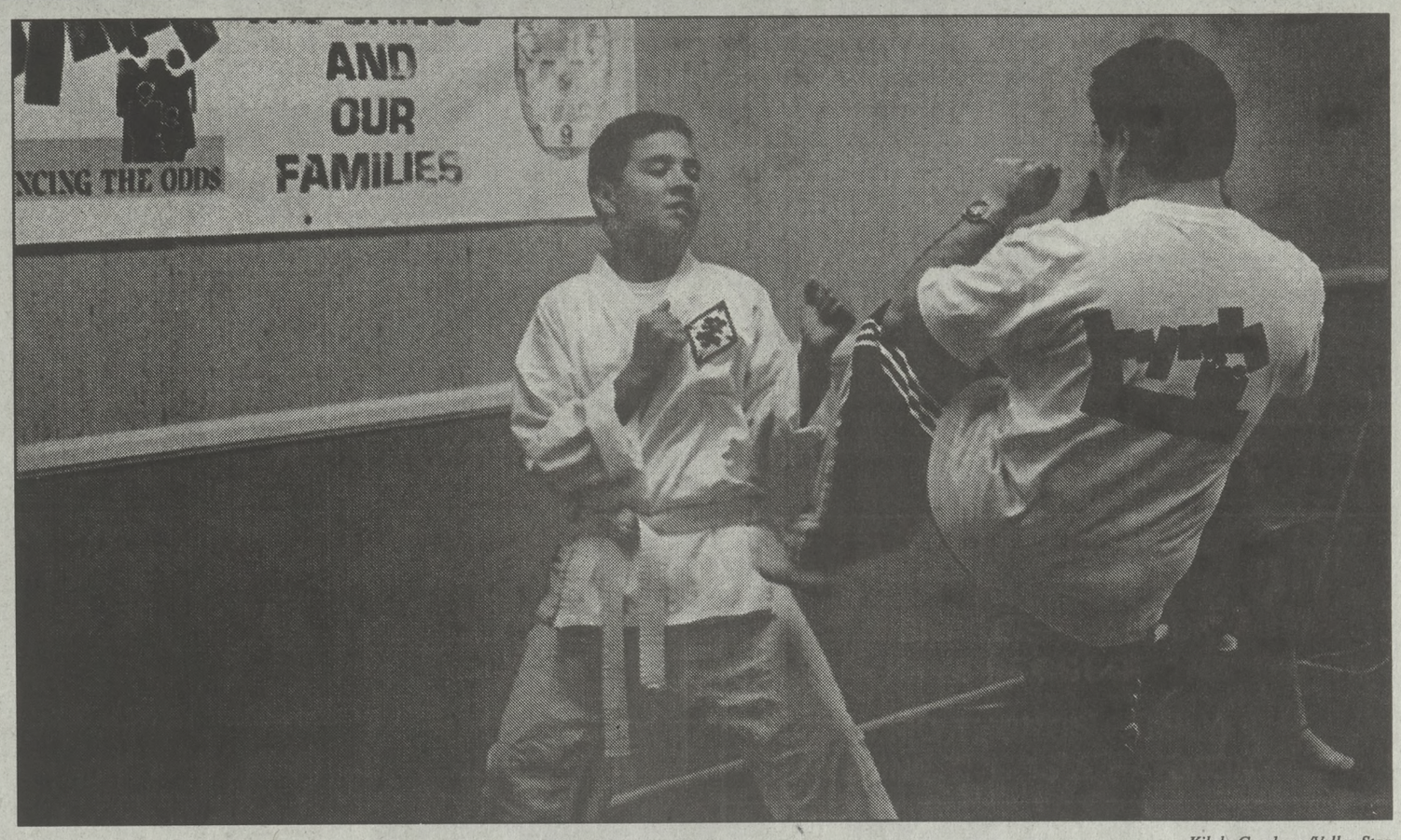
A student at both VanNuys High School and Valley College, Ruellas is training inside the Los Angeles Police Department VanNuys Jeopardy program boxing gym located at 6015 Woodman.

Jeopardy, a program started in 1985 by Chief Daryl F. Gates, was created to change the behaviors of youth considered to be at risk of joining a gang or doing drugs.

"We show them the repercussions of being bad and the advantages of being good," said Officer David Ham.

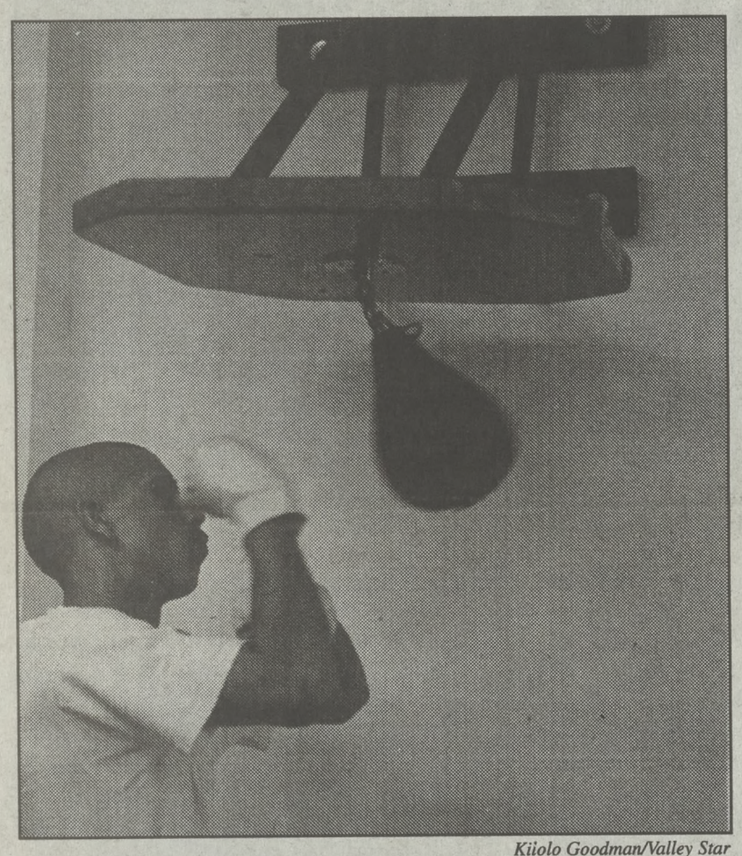
Ham and Officer Fernando Ochoa are the two officers in charge of the Van Nuys Jeopardy program.

"The success behind Jeopardy is because of the officers assigned to it," Ochoa said. "We build up a rapport with these kids and that helps break down the stereotypes about police officers . They realize that we are concerned about them and want them to go to school to get a good education."



Kilolo Goodman/Valley Star

Officer David Ham prepares Jeopardy students for a future competition in San Diego. Students practice at the Jeopardy program.



Kiiolo Goodman/Valley Star

Hugo Ruellas pummels the speed bag at the Jeopardy Boxing

Ochoa and Ham, along with boxing coach Michael Booton, weight lifting coach Scott Livingston and 10-15 volunteers, spend their afternoons as mentors and tutor students that range from 8 to 17 years old.

Some of the volunteers are Valley College students that are taking part in the Service Learning program for school credit.

These students help with office work and later are able to tutor and peer counsel the Jeopardy youth.

Ochoa said the local schools and police officers are mostly responsible for the bulk of the recruitment for Jeopardy.

"If a teacher sees a student struggling or constantly falling into trouble, the student will be referred to us," he said.

The program, which is located in an old bank building is based on consequences and rewards. Each room at Jeopardy opens another door to opportunity for any involved member.

In one room a group of kids work with Ham on various Karate techniques.

"Get into fighting positions," Ham said

Soon these kids will be traveling to San Diego for competition. This is a goal Jeopardy gave them.

"It is very rewarding to see them go from being bad to being productive and actually getting a dream again," said Ham. "It has been a long time since people have asked these kids 'what do you want to be when you grow up?'"

> *"We try to plant the seed of education into their heads so that when it comes to them doing a drug or joining a gang, they will think back on what they learned in Jeopardy,"*
>
> **— Fernando Ochoa**
> **Police Officer**

Three doors down is eight year old Jesus Rodriguez being admired by boxing coach Booton.

"He's good," said Booton as he watched Rodriguez in the ring throwing punches left and right into the air.

Like Ruellas, Rodriguez wants to someday be a professional boxer. "I want to learn how to protect myself," Rodriguez said. "Some times the big kids bother me too much, but I'm getting better."

Booton who has been in boxing for 25 years, said he encourages the older kids to mentor the younger ones.

"We look for heart. Exercises can be taught to anyone," Booton said. With a sport like this, it comes down to heart.

Weight lifting with the "Duke" or coach Livingston is also a pastime members take part in. A former powerlifter, Livingston can be heard down the street yelling "Hit it! "when he trains.

"I never advocate fighting," he said. "We lift for a couple of hours and I teach them about all the muscles."

Art and hobby classes, counseling sessions and computer labs fare also available.

Ochoa said the fee for the kids to take part in the activities offered is to do their homework and change their behavior at school.

"It's a good program to keep you away from the streets," Ruellas said.

Field trips to the Getty Museum, Yosemite, the movies, beach and jazz concerts are also on the Jeopardy agenda.

"We try to take the kids out of the neighborhood and show them the bigger picture out there," Ochoa said.

"In a gang one is limited to areas that he or she can go to. We want them to be able to experience the rest of the world."

Ham added that there's more to life than four walls and a TV.

"There are so many kids that have not had these type of experiences, like going to a play," said Ham.

Those interested in volunteering for Jeopardy can contact Ochoa or Ham at (818) 756-9802.

"We try to plant the seed of education into their heads so that when it comes to them doing a drug or joining a gang, they will think back on what they learned in Jeopardy," Ochoa said.

Campus Spotlight

Dr. Desiree De La Garza

By: ALEXIS SCALICE
STAR REPORTER

Where most people choose the tread mill or weightlifting for a good workout, Dr. Desiree De La Garza teaches. The classroom is her gym and the interaction with her students serves as the perfect aerobic rush to start her day.

"When I leave the classroom, I feel like I just had the best work out," De La Garza said. "Getting offered the chance to teach was like a revelation to me."

A UCLA grad, De La Garza joined forces with Valley in August. Outside the classroom she has a couple more responsibilities on campus to tend to.

She is currently the full time director of the growing Service Learning program. This program offers students school credit to volunteer at an agency of their choice.

"This is the first year the program has a paid staff," she said proudly. "There are now over 50 agencies, an increased number in participating faculty and over 200 students enrolled."

Ambitious and determined to develop this program even more, De La Garza has recently applied for a $125,000 grant.

"This money would go to new computers, more student workers and better handbooks," she said.

Unlike most, De La Garza does not end all her days at three or five in the afternoon. During some evenings she serves as a counselor where students seek her helpful advice and guidance. De La Garza said what affects students the most from achieving their academic goals is the fact that many have not reached their personal goals.

"So many students ask me, "Am I too old? I don't know what to do with myself,'" she said. "You are never too old to learn!."

Before Valley, De La Garza worked as a child psychologist for five years.

"It was hard to hear all the children's horror stories," she said. "That was one of the main factors why I switched professions. Maybe one day I will go back to it [psychology], but for now I love this."

De La Garza said compared to therapy there is a lot more immediate results for her while working at Valley.

"I hear instant positive reactions from students in the Service Learning Program," she said. "I saw a lot of abuse before and now I see a lot more positive."

The sunshine in her life is her 3 year old son Austin whose picture occupies a prominent place on her desk.

"I'm doing exactly what I want to do," she said. "I was taught to be who you are."

For more information about the Service Learning Program contact De La Garza at (818) 947-2610.

Malik Rashaan/Valley Star

Hard at work, Desiree De La Garza teaches, directs the Service Learning Program and councils students at night. The program offers students the chance to volunteer at over 50 agencies.

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

(March 18-April 8)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES

-Thursday, Mar. 18-

- Calico Winds
- Woodwind quintet
- At the Music Recital Hall
- 11 a.m.

-Saturday, Mar. 20-

- Valley Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Concert
- Features "The Soldier's Tale"
- Robert Chauls, director, pianist and composer
- George Attarian, narrator
- Wilma Monroe, choreographer
- At the Music Recital Hall
- 8 p.m.

$12.00 general admission
$9.00 students and seniors

-Thursday, Apr. 1-

- April Fool's Concert
- Music Department Faculty and staff
- Nick Strimple, Conductor
- At the Music Recital Hall
- 11 a.m.

$5.00 general admission

-Thursday, Apr. 8-

- LAVC Jazz Band
- Woody James, director
- Music Room 112
- 11 a.m.

THEATER ARTS PLAY PRODUCTIONS

-March 17 & 18-

- Alice in Wonderland
- Directed by Mike Thomas
- In Theater Arts Room 101

-April 7 & 8-

- Spades and the Field
- Directed by Francisco Hernandez
- In Theater Arts Room 101

FACULTY ART SHOW

-March 16- to April 15-

- "Art Faculty Work"
- Monday through Thursday
- 11a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- In the Art Gallery

Jose Mancilla/Valley Star

Three of the LAVC Chamber singers perform a madrigal drinking song in the opening segment of Sunday's program.

Valley College Philharmonic Choir sing Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana'

By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

The Valley College Philharmonic Choir under the direction of Nick Strimple presented Carl Orff's non-orchestral edition of Carmina Burana at the Music Department's Little Theater last Sunday. Using two pianos and the Monarch Percussion Ensemble, Strimple passionately conducted the 58 voice choir in an excellent performance of the popular oratorio.

My first exposure to Orff's sexy narrative of arias, recitatives and rhythmic melodies was as an 18 year old soldier knowing nothing of the piece.

I loved its raw energy but would never have guessed it's meaning, were it not for the fact that it was a fully staged, costumed and choreographed production. As such it was easy to see that it was about defrocked monks vagrantly indulging in gambling,wine, women, song and each other. I knew immediately that I was witnessing something without the impermatur of the Catholic Legion of Decency. Mama would definitely not approve of such musical debauchery but I loved it.

Not long after, I heard a recorded version and came to appreciate the more pastoral imagery of nature, spring and love in bloom, particularly in the first part, and of course the commanding percussive presence which gives such dramatic emphasis to the overall darkness of the music.

I had never heard anything quite like it and to this day it stands alone in dramatic power, tenderness and eroticism. It's a challenge to performer and audience alike, but once it kicks in it is totally satisfying.

There were a few tentative moments and areas where the voices could have been more expressive but overall it was very satisfying. Like a chorus dancer, a choral singer must never stand out from the other singers and to this end they succeeded beautifully.

Being unschooled in the melodic styles presented, I can only comment on its emotional impact, which was that of a completely delightful musical treat.

With eyes closed it was easy to imagine rakes and wenches at play, and intemperate monks throwing up their robes in bacchanalian revelry.

The piano accompaniment was provided by the always capable Patricia Hannifan and Julie Lawson.

Hannifan also accompanied and contributed vocally to the selected madrigals about Spring and Love featuring the LAVC Chamber Singers which opened the program. Carmina Burana gives a whole new meaning to "Spring Break."

THE MOD SQUAD goes under cover and blasts into action

By NANCY E. BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

In the wise words of Lincoln Hayes, "The Mod Squad" was "solid."

MGM's new Mod Squad movie is the modern version of Aaron Spelling's television series that ran for four years beginning in 1968.

"Mod" is a word that originated in the 60's and describes someone who has an ultramodern style and outlook on life.

The 90's version of the squad features a trio that still has the fashion sense from the 60's and 70's but with a stronger attitude towards society.

The Mod Squad is made up of criminals Julie Barnes, Pete Cochrane, and Lincoln Hayes who were sentenced to jail but given a second chance in exchange for their services.

Captain Adam Greer, played by Dennis Farina, formed the Mod Squad so that he could have a team of individuals with that could go undercover in places where other cops can't.

In particular, Captain Greer needs help to find out who took the missing case of cocaine from the evidence locker.

Claire Danes plays Julie, a recovering alcoholic who is convicted for assault.

Emerging from her usual good girl characters, Danes plays a girl with an attitude from the streets, yet she is still able to covey a slight sense of vulnerability to the situations around her.

Giovanni Ribisi plays Pete, a boy from the good part of town that turns to a life crime and is convicted for robbery.

Pete never admits that he's got problems, but it is soon revealed why he rebelled against society and left his home.

Ribisi is as unpredictable in this movie as he has been in his previous work, which is great.

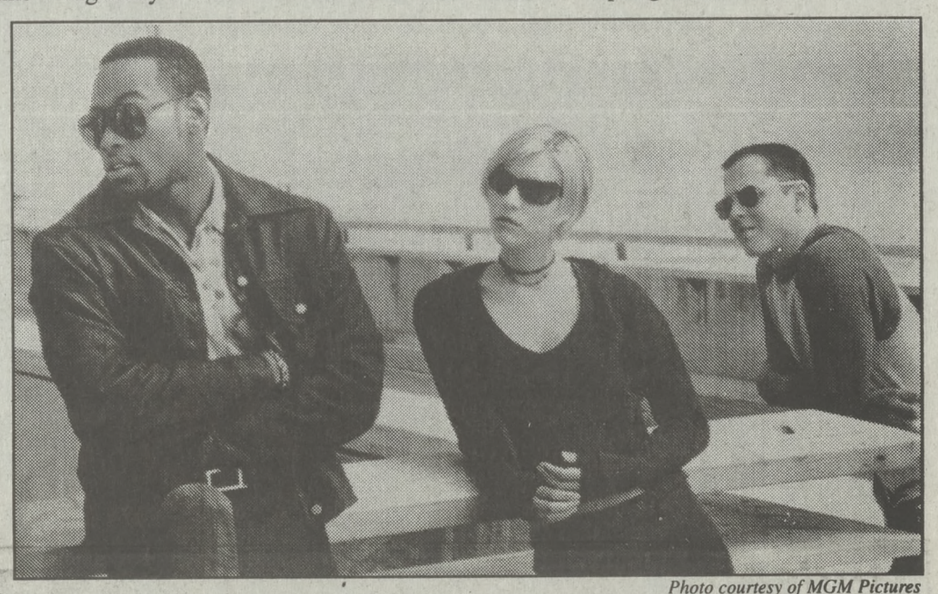

Photo courtesy of MGM Pictures

Giovanni Rubisi, Claire Danes and Omar Epps star in "The Mod Squad"

Lincoln, played by Omar Epps, is their leader of the group and doesn't care what's going on around him as long as no one messes with his car.

Epps plays his character with this whole superfly attitude going on and he doesn't even pretend to blame anyone for his actions.

"The Mod Squad" is definitely worth seeing not only because of the great performances that the actors give, but because the story line is full of bullet dodging, foot chases, car crashes and a great interrogation scene.

It's so fast paced you can't be late or get up to buy popcorn.

The Mod Squad opens March 26.

'Parallel Lives' relived at the Shoebox Theater

By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

The Theater Arts Department presented "Parallel Lives," aka "The Kathy & Mo Show" at the Shoebox Theater March 10 and 11.

The comedy was an Off-Broadway success and playwrights, Kathy Nijimy and Mo Gaffney have gone on to bigger and better things, but they left behind this tasty tidbit, just right for student actors and directors to learn by. This was a cut version, as is usually the case in lab theater, and being one of those pieces filled with punchlines and blackouts, it's easily edited without losing its effect.

The script is on the smart side of clever and is of that genre of Catholic comedies on the order of "Nunsense" and "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" only without the nuns, and of a considerably darker content.

In this incarnation it consists of four scenes, and in the hands of actors Christine Iblings and Sarah Godel, and director Brent Rosen it succeeds every step of the way.

The set design, also credited to Rosen, was simple but effective, and helped to free the imagination of the audience, especially in the opening scene, where not one but two supreme beings lay the groundwork for earth life while looking down from a big cartoon cloud at a schoolroom geography globe set center stage. It's a great setup and got the audience on track for the scenes to come which examined simultaneously, the lives of two girlfriends in different time periods.

It followed their lives from schoolgirls, where they speculate on heaven and hell, to their private moments in the confessional, and from their girl-talk at Camp Christ to their journey into the non-scheduled theologies of eastern gurus.

It was acted well, staged well and well received, and coming in at just over one half hour, it left the audience wanting more. It's amazing how much these actors can get out of such sparse accommodations. Imagine what they'll be capable of when the proposed Media Arts Academy is completed?

Part of the reason for their artistic inspiration of course is in the simplicity of the tools at their disposal. They are often forced to create something out of nothing which they always seem to do successfully.

Contributing to that success were stage manager and sound operator, Ariana Powell, assistant stage manager, Sharlene Brown, light designer and operator, Rafael Conroy, spotlight operator, Gabbie Vasquez, production manager, Aaron Bronsal and running crew, Dan Greenberg, Jesse Leon and Kevin Peckham.

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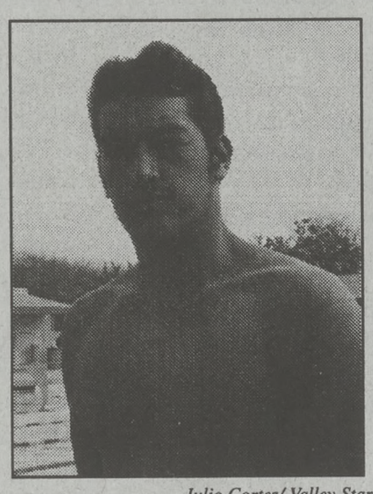
Sandoval and Rodriguez Feb Athletes of the Month

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Daniel Sandoval did not lose a distance freestyle match in February, helping the men's swim team stay undefeated through three matches while earning a spot as the month's most outstanding male athlete .

He earned the spot finishing first in his assignments against Santa Monica, Citrus and Chaffey. The 6'1" freshman had victories in the 1000 and the 500 yard freestyle and in the 200 individual medley competitions.



Julio Cortez/ Valley Star

"I just liked swimming, though (water polo and swimming stars) are not probably publicized like the football stars,"

-Daniel Sandoval

"He has been swimming good," said Coach Bill Krauss about the rising freshman. "His times have been dropping, but he still needs to work on his freestyle stroke. It's a little sloppy."

Sandoval, a Burbank High graduate, thinks that his success and his future improvement is due to the hard work he puts in during practice.

Though being a hard worker himself, Sandoval thinks his teammates need to improve on their work ethics.

"We need to show up to the workouts," Sandoval said about the absent team members last week when they finished by matching up against the best swim program in the Western State Conference, Ventura.

The team lost to Ventura by the score of 63-47 breaking the team's undefeated season.

Sandoval knew that the meet against co-first place Ventura was going to be a tough one. "It's going to be tough to beat them: they have a lot of good swimmers," Sandoval said.

"We need more dedication in order to be productive," Sandoval said. "So far we're looking good, but it takes hard work to get where we want to be."

Sandoval got into swimming after he got interested in water polo while watching it in the Olympics.

"In order to be a good water polo player you need to know how to swim good," Sandoval said about why he took swimming seriously.

"I just liked swimming, though (water polo and swimming stars) are not probably publicized like the football stars," Sandoval said when asked about who

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

The most shocking news for Maricela Rodriguez was not finding herself playing against top-seeded Sierra for the women's basketball state championship, but being February's Athlete of the Month.

Winning the state championship was the goal she and the rest of the Lady Monarchs were trying to reach.

"I'm happy," Rodriguez said. "I've been chosen before and I did not know that I was chosen again."

Indeed, Rodriguez was also named Athlete of the Month back in November when the season had just begun.

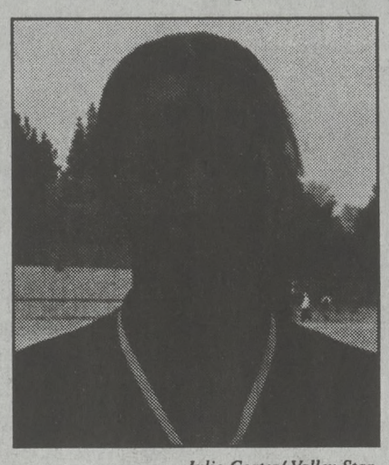
"The award is within itself," Rodriguez replied when asked about receiving a plaque or a diploma.

Though the team was runner up in the state, the women's team had plenty to smile about just with the fact that Rodriguez was a part of the team.

Early in the season she was diagnosed with a viral infection which she had to take some time off to nurse.

"When I got sick, I felt really down that I couldn't help my team more than I could have," Rodriguez said. "Instead of resting, I was practicing even harder. I guess I would have probably gotten better if I listened."

"(Rodriguez) has stepped up," Head Coach John Taylor said about Rodriguez' important role in the playoffs. "I think that she is one of the top five women's basketball players in the state."



Julio Cortez/ Valley Star

"I owe it to my team because they have confidence in me."

-Maricela Rodriguez

Coach Mike Muro agrees with Taylor's comments.

"She always plays hard," Muro said. "She steps it up a notch and that's what great players do."

Now that the season is over, Rodriguez who is a California native and of Mexican/Puerto Rican background, feels that this was her best basketball season. The farthest she's gone was in her senior year, when Lincoln High lost to Gardena in the second round of the So. Section Division III-A playoffs.

"I never really had great coaches, until now," Rodriguez said about the lack of success in previous teams. "I learned that if I listened to (Taylor and Muro) we could go far. And we did."

Rodriguez also played volleyball, softball and track and field in high school. She chose to play only basketball in college because she thinks it's the most exciting of all the other sports she has participated in.

BAXMAN'S COLUMN

Did we expect it to be that easy?

By BAXTER CEPEDA
STAR REPORTER

Funny thing happened on the way to the championship for the Lakers. Dennis decided he has personal problems and took a leave of absence from the team.

What I'd like to say to Jerry, Kurt, Shaq and the rest of the gang is- Who cares!

Don't get me wrong though, the Lakers will not win the championship if Dennis is not on the floor wearing purple and gold in June.

If he doesn't want to be here now. That's fine. If he doesn't want to practice. That's fine also.

Rodman is in top shape year round- playing or not. He won't lose his shot because he simply doesn't have a shot to lose.

Unlike every other player in the NBA, he doesn't need to play around his teammates a whole lot. He can get the job done on a team that he has never met his teammates before.

In fact, the more he plays around a team the worse it is for that team. It gives him time to do all the crazy things he does because the routine life of the NBA during the regular season is too slow and boring for him.

The Lakers have way too much talent right now. At times, too much for their own good. By not having Dennis right now, all the other power forwards on the team can get their minutes during the regular season.

When the big boys are needed in the playoffs, add Dennis to the mix and catch every other team off guard.

The Lakers have, in addition to the "worm", Travis Knight who is actually the starter, Robert Horry, and now J.R. Reid. All would be starters in 90% of the other teams.

Reid, who came to the Lakers as part of the trade that got rid of choker Eddie Jones for "clutch" specialist Glenn Rice, is an up and coming player that is already proving he deserves major minutes.

Horry is strong and has the always important championship experience. He won two championships with Houston during Jordan's baseball days.

Starter Travis Knight definitely deserves to play. He comes closest to resembling Rodman. He plays great defense, is a great team player and unlike his three teammates has a killer 20-footer from the top of the key.

We can kind of understand Rodman's little problem. Sure he needs to spend time with Carmen Electra. Sure he isn't thrilled about his salary. Sure he has a stalker to worry about. But in reality he is a 37 year old veteran who feels the young guns nipping at his feet. Dennis- Don't worry. They'll never catch up until after you retire.

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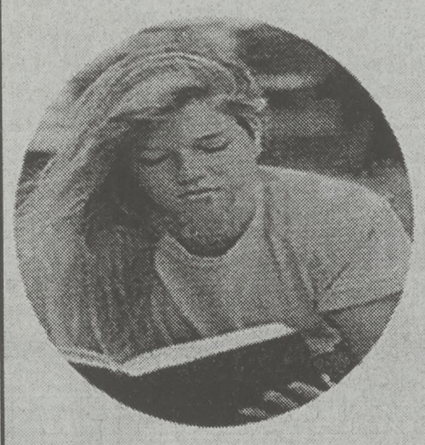

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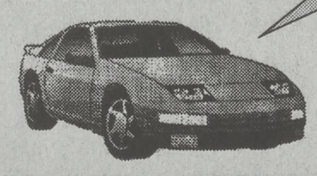

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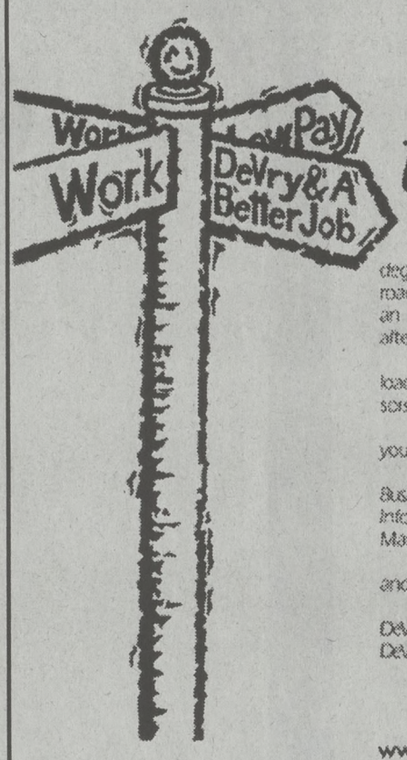

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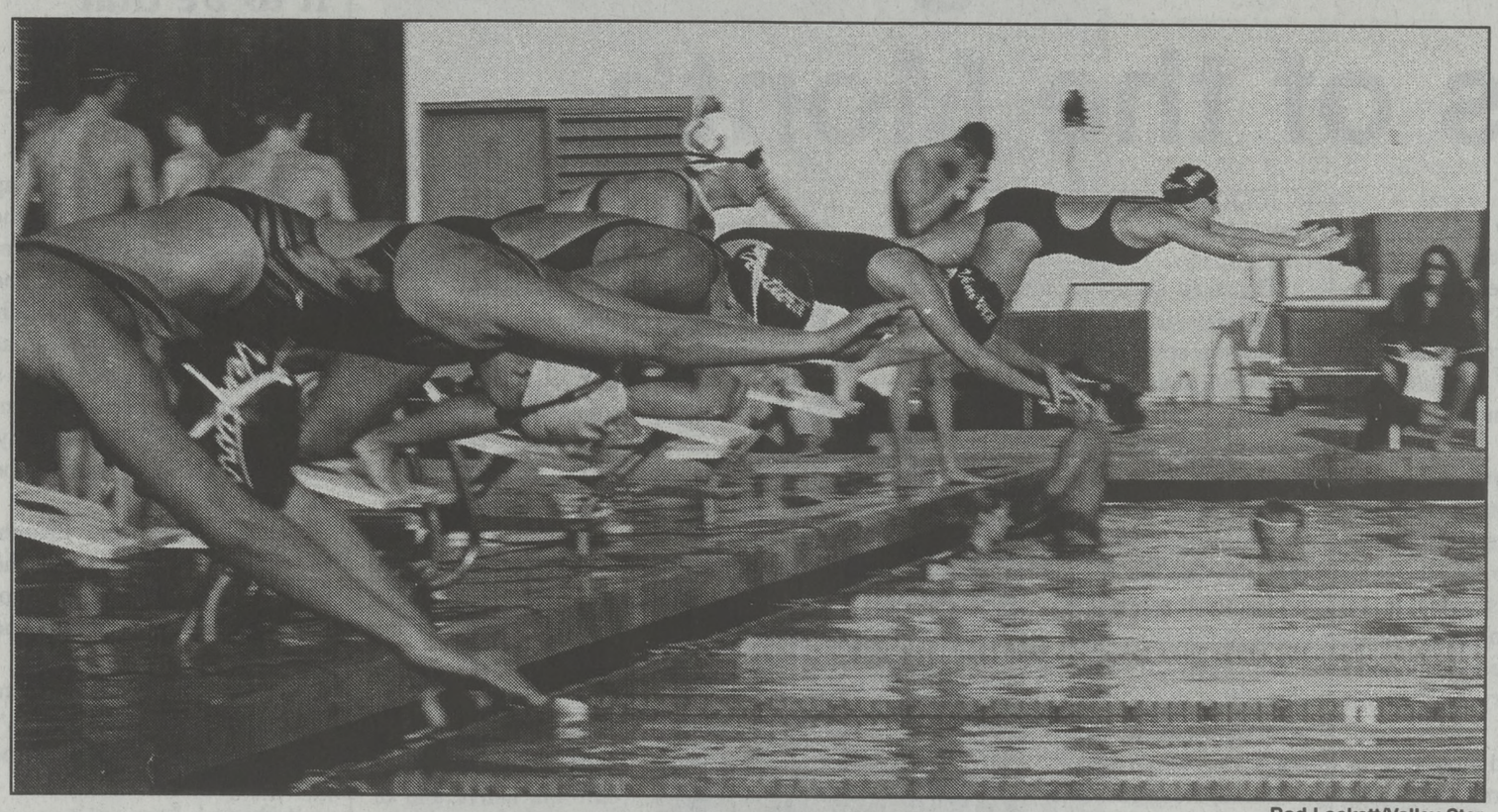
Valley swimmers take a dive against Ventura



Rod Lockett/Valley Star

Valley's women swim team competes against Ventura College Friday.

By HOLLY E. CARSON
STAR REPORTER

Valley's fourth swim meet of the season against Ventura was plagued by bad attendance and slow times on Friday.

"We didn't get up for this meet," Daniel Sandoval, a swimmer on the Monarch men's team said. "We seemed to be tired and too many people not showing up didn't help."

Ventura out-swam the Valley men's team by a score of 63-47 drowning their three meet winning streak.

"They had more depth than we did," said swim coach Bill Krauss. "They were in better shape and their times were fast. We need to work harder and have more consistent workout attendance."

The 1-meter and 3-meter diving was spectacular with Francisco Diaz winning both events. Turning in a good winning swim time for Valley was Josh Wilson in the 200 yard breaststroke (2:23.1) . The men rallied as a team winning both the 400 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

The Lady Monarchs were completely dominated by the Ventura women's team losing 84-20. This loss brings their season total to 2-2. "Their women's swim team was faster and in better shape," said coach Krauss. "We had to hold several of our women swimmers out of the meet for missing too many workouts, and none of our women divers showed up."

Fast times for the Lady Monarchs were put in by Stephanie Hammer in the 100 yard freestyle (57.3); and Lianna Kishimoto won both the 500 yard freestyle (5:56.7) and 200 yard individual medley (2:31.1).

Injury plagued season catching up to Track

By DENNIS E. HAYSE
STAR REPORTER

The Valley Men's Track and Field Team competed on Saturday at the Fullerton Invitational with over 20 junior colleges and universities.

"Overall we didn't do to well," said Men's Head Coach Scott Weisbly. "But we were well represented among the junior colleges."

The stars of this meet were State qualifying high jumper Jeremy Jackson, who placed third in the high jump with a 66 3/4 and Greg Hewlett, who placed eighth in the men's shot-put.

"We're having a long rough season," said Men's Assistant Coach Tim Knappen.

The Valley Track and Field has been plagued with injuries all throughout this season. Such injured athletes include sprinter Safa Rahi and pole vaulter David Liberson.

"We're going to have an important meet at COC (College Of the Canyons) Friday and it'll be our last conference meet," said Weisbly. "We're hoping everyone is healthy and ready to compete."

"We really want to win this Friday," said Knappen.

The Valley Men and Women's Track and Field Team will be having a quad meet at College Of the Canyons Friday, March 19. The Western State Conference Mini Meet will include such teams as LAVC, Cuesta, WLA, COC, and HAN.

Hollywood's Corner:

Marathon proves you were wrong all along

Once again I finished 26.2 long miles of agony in the Los Angeles Marathon.

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Despite finishing at my career worst, I'm still proud of finishing it. Though finishing in 7 hours, 32 minutes and 56 seconds and behind 15,726 people, I still finished.

I suffered an injury to my left hamstring while playing baseball exactly one month before the marathon. I was doomed with the same injury to my remaining healthy leg when I tried to keep on playing baseball two weeks later.

I wasn't going to run after many people told me that I wasn't going to be ready for the big run because of my injuries. Still, I was determined to finish even if I had to crawl to the finish line.

I was labeled as crazy when I decided to run despite my injuries. These people lacked the knowledge of how hard I trained eight months prior to the first injury. They just thought I was injured and I was somehow crippled for the rest of my life. Well let me just tell you that the reason why I got injured was because I was working harder than what my body was capable of. Can you blame a brother for trying to be the best he could?

I know that if the mishaps had never come up on me, I would have finished under four hours. Last year I finished 4 hours-15 minutes and it was just my second run of that capacity. Well I guess now I have more time for training and to be stronger for March 5, 2000 when I will run my fourth one.

Despite all of the bad remarks, I thank all of those negative people.

I thank that teammate on my baseball team who hated the fact that I was playing despite running like Donald Duck down the first base line. It just shows how much stronger a person with injured legs is than a person with injured brain, in this case my teammate. I thank people who said it was going to be hard. I thank my girlfriend's step-dad who said I was going to quit at the half-way point.

I thank all of you because you were the ones who along with my mind were the ones who pushed me toward the finishing line.

To all those negative people, I hope someday you can appreciate people's efforts.

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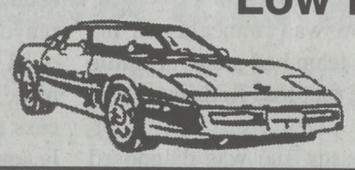

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